IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 10 and 13 as follows:

1. (Amended) An image input device for picking up images of one or more subjects by switching of an image pickup direction, said image input device comprising:

image pickup means for picking up an image of a subject and for outputting an image signal corresponding to the picked-up image;

image pickup direction switching means for switching the image pickup direction of said image pickup means;

first detection means for detecting an angle of the image pickup direction and for determining whether the detected angle is equal to a predetermined angle; and

storage means for storing an image signal of the one or more subjects only when the predetermined angle is detected by said first detection means.

2. (Amended) An image input device according to claim 1, further comprising:

second detection means for determining whether the image pickup direction is fixed,

wherein said storage means is structured to store said image signal when the image pickup direction is determined, by said second detection means, to be fixed.

4. (Amended) An image input device according to claim 1 [or 3], wherein said storage means stores the image signal corresponding to the image pickup direction of said predetermined angle when the image pickup means is switched from a direction for picking up an image of a document to a direction for picking up an image of a person.

7. (Amended) An image input device for picking up images of a plurality of subjects by switching an image pickup direction, said image input device comprising:

a mount table for laying a subject thereon;

image pickup means for picking up an image of said subject and for outputting an image signal corresponding to the picked-up image;

image pickup direction switching means for switching the image pickup direction of said image pickup means between a direction for picking up an image of said subject laid on said mount table and another direction;

detection means for detecting the image pickup direction of said image pickup means; and

storage means for storing the image signal output from said image pickup means only when the image pickup direction of said image pickup means detected by said detecting means is the direction for picking up said subject on said mount table.

10. (Amended) An image input method for picking up images of a plurality of subjects by switching an image pickup direction and outputting image signals corresponding to picked-up images of the subjects, said image input method comprising the steps of:

detecting an angle of the image pickup direction and determining whether the detected angle is equal to a predetermined angle; and

storing the image signals only when the detected angle is equal to the predetermined angle.

13. (Amended) An image input device according to claim 1, [wherein said storage] further comprising output means for outputting [stores said] the image signal stored by said storage means when an angle which is not equal to said predetermined angle is detected by said first detection means.

Please add Claims 14-32 as follows:

--14. An image input device for picking up images of one subject or more by switching of an image pickup direction, said image input device comprising:

image pickup means for picking up an image of a subject and for outputting an image signal corresponding to the picked-up image;

image pickup direction switching means for switching the image pickup direction of said image pickup means;

first detection means for detecting an angle of the image pickup direction;

storage means for storing an image signal of one subject or more when a predetermined angle is detected by said first detection means; and

control means for controlling, at an arbitrary timing, output of the image signal stored by said storage means.

15. An image input device according to claim 14, further comprising:

second detection means for determining whether the image pickup direction is fixed, wherein said storage means is structured to store said image signal when the image pickup direction is determined, by said second detection means, to be fixed.

16. An image input device according to claim 14, further comprising: driving means for changing the image pickup direction of said image pickup means, wherein said storage means stores the image signal when a driving means signal is applied.

17. An image input device according to claim 14, wherein said storage means stores the image signal corresponding to the image pickup direction of said predetermined angle when the image pickup direction of said image pickup means is switched from a direction for picking up an image of a document to a direction for picking up an image of a person.

18. An image input device according to claim 17, wherein said control means controls said storage means to output the stored image signal when said image pickup means is shifted from the document image pickup direction to the person image pickup direction.

19. An image input device according to claim 14, wherein said storage means has at least more than two areas for storing an image signal, and said image input device further comprises:

memory control means for switching between said at least more than two storage areas for storing the image signal according to the angle detected by said first detection means.

20. An image input device according to claim 14, wherein said control means outputs an image signal stored by said storing means repeatedly.

21. An image input device according to claim 14, wherein said control means outputs an image signal stored by said storing means selectively.

22. An image input device according to claim 14, wherein said control means controls so as to output the image signal when said predetermined angle is not detected by said detecting means.

23. An image input device for picking up images of a plurality of subjects by switching an image pickup direction, said image input device comprising:

a mount table for laying a subject thereon;

image pickup means for picking up an image of said subject and for outputting an image signal corresponding to the picked-up image;

image pickup direction switching means for switching the image pickup direction of said image pickup means between a direction for picking up an image of said subject laid on said mount table and another direction;

detection means for detecting the image pickup direction of said image pickup means; and

storage means for storing the image signal output from said image pickup means when the image pickup direction of said image pickup means detected by said

detecting means is the direction for picking up said subject on said mount table; and

control means for controlling, at an arbitrary timing, output of the image signal stored by said storing means.

24. An image input device according to claim 23, further comprising control means structured to allow the image signal stored in said storage means to be output when the image pickup direction of said image is switched from a direction.

25. An image input device according to claim 23, wherein said storage means has more than two storage areas for storing an image signal, and said image input device further comprises:

a switch for storing, in said storage means, the image signal output from said image pickup means; and

assigning means for assigning a number to the image signal stored by said switch.

26. An image input device according to claim 23, wherein said control means outputs an image signal stored by said storing means repeatedly.

27. An image input device according to claim 23, wherein said control means outputs an image signal stored by said storing means selectively.

28. An image input method for picking up images of a plurality of subjects by switching an image pickup direction and outputting image signals corresponding to picked-up images of the subjects, the image input method comprising the steps of:

detecting an angle of the image pickup direction; and

determining whether the detected angle is equal to a predetermined angle; and

controlling, at an arbitrary timing, output of the stored images.

29. An image input method according to claim 28, wherein the image signals are stored when the image pickup direction is switched from a direction to pick up an image of a document to a direction to pick up an image of a person.

30. An image input method according to claim 28, wherein the stored image signals are controlled to be output when the detected angle of the image pickup direction is shifted from an angle corresponding to the document image pickup direction to the person image pickup direction.

31. An image input method according to claim 28, wherein said controlling step outputs an image signal stored in said storing step repeatedly.

32. An image input method according to claim 28, wherein said controlling step outputs an image signal stored in said storing step selectively.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are now presented for examination. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 10 and 13 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention Claims 14-32 have been added to provide Applicant with a more complete scope of protection.

Claims 1, 7, 10, 14, 23 and 28 are the independent claims.

Claims 1-5, 7, 8 and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by Ishiyama. Claim 6 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious from Ishiyama in view of Mizoguchi.

As shown above, the independent claims have been amended to recite the present invention more clearly. Applicant submits that amended independent Claims 1, 7 and 10, as well as newly added independent Claims 14, 23 and 28, are patentable over the prior art for at least the following reasons.